

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/670,545

Applicant(s)

HSIEH ET AL.

Examiner

Marc R. Filipczyk

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/26/07 and interview of 9/7/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17, 33-36 and 40-51.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

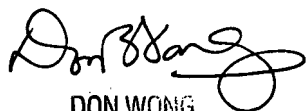
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/7/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Art Unit: 2163

DETAILED ACTION

This Action is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed on June 26, 2007.

Claims 1-17, 33-36 and 40-51 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Martensen on September 7, 2007.

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A system for managing a product distribution channel having a plurality of channel participants, comprising:

one or more reference record databases;

one or more reference records within the reference record databases, each reference record providing an association between business information and spatial data for a specific channel participant, wherein each reference record includes a reference record spatial identifier determined by geo-coding said spatial data;

transaction data related to at least one channel participant wherein said transaction data includes a transaction data spatial identifier determined by geo-coding spatial data associate with said transaction data;

Art Unit: 2163

a candidate identification mechanism for determining more than one candidate reference record from one of the reference record databases using both spatial and business data derived from the transaction data; [[and]]

responsive to determining more than one candidate reference records, a matching mechanism for matching at least one candidate reference record from the determined more than one candidate reference records to the transaction data, wherein said matching mechanism includes a lexical matching process; and

storing in the reference record databases a match identifier associated with the match between the at least one candidate reference record from the determined more than one candidate reference records and the transaction data.

5 (Currently Amended). The system of claim 1 wherein at least one channel participant comprises a reseller such as a dealer, agent, or branch,~~and the like.~~

33 (Currently Amended). A method for identifying distribution channel participants comprising:
generating a transaction record comprising business and spatial data that identifies at least one channel participant with a first degree of precision;

geo-coding spatial data within the transaction record to determine a transaction spatial identifier for the transaction record;

providing a reference record database comprising a plurality of reference records wherein each reference record comprises business and spatial information having a second degree of precision, and wherein the second degree of precision is greater than the first degree of precision and each reference record is associated with a reference record spatial identifier, said reference record spatial identifier being determined by geo-coding spatial information within each reference record; and

determining at least one match between the transaction record and the plurality of reference records based on a comparative analysis of both lexical matching of transaction record business data to reference record business information and association of the transaction spatial identifier with reference record spatial identifiers, storing in the reference record database a

Art Unit: 2163

match identifier associated with the at least one match between the transaction record and the plurality of reference records.

42 (Currently Amended). A computer-based method for resolving ambiguous transaction records, comprising:

storing reference records in memory that each provide an association between business information and spatial data for each of a plurality of distribution channel participants, the spatial data including a geocode; and

with a resolver mechanism running on a computer having access to the memory, receiving a transaction record comprising transaction information and location information, wherein the transaction information includes an imprecise identification for one of the distribution channel participants associated with the stored reference records preventing a direct match with the business information and spatial data of the one distribution channel participants to be made with certainty;

responsive to failing to identify a direct match between the transaction record and the one distribution channel participant, operating the resolver mechanism to parse the location information in the transaction record and generate a geocode based on the parsed location information;

comparing the generated geocode with the reference record geocodes of each of the plurality of distribution channel participants to select one or more candidate reference records from the stored reference records;

performing lexical processing of the imprecise identification for one of the distribution channel participants with reference to the business information in the selected one or more candidate reference records; and

based on the lexical processing, matching the received transaction record to one of the selected one or more candidate reference records wherein a match identifier associated with the match between the received transaction record and one of the selected one or more candidate reference records is stored in memory.

Art Unit: 2163

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-17, 33-36 and 40-51 are allowable over the prior art of record, renumbered as claims 1-33, respectively.

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 33 and 42 are allowable because the prior art of record or that encountered in searching for the invention, fails to disclose or suggest distribution channel participants wherein a matching mechanism matches at least one reference record to a transaction data by use of a lexical process, wherein the reference record and transaction data include geo-coding comprising spatial data and business information, and storing in a reference record databases or memory a match identifier associated with the match between the reference record and the transaction data, as claimed in addition to the other claim provisions.

Regarding claims 2-17, 34-36, 40, 41, and 43-51 depend from claims 1, 33 and 42, respectively and are therefore allowable on the same merits.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following prior art shows the state of art with respect to transaction matching and distribution:

U.S. Patent No. 6,594,641 of Southam

U.S. Patent No. 6,836,777 of Holle

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2163

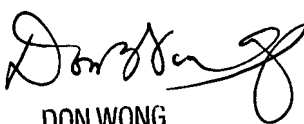
fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R. Filipczyk whose telephone number is (571) 272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MF
September 11, 2007


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